

REMARKS

Applicant affirms the election for prosecution the invention of Group I, claims 1-9 and cancels non-elected claims 10-16.

No amendment to the inventorship is believed necessary in that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made and that the named inventors are inventors of at least one of the claims remaining in the application.

The objections under 35 USC 112 have been eliminated in all of the pending claims by replacing the term "interior" at all occurrences with the term "the inner" for consistency; the typographical error in claim 4 has been corrected; the term "lubricant" has been added in claim 8 and the limitation of a pair of lubricant spray nozzles has been eliminated from claim 8. Furthermore, the term "high" has been eliminated when referring to the pressure air streams and replaced with the term "pressurized" at all occurrences in the pending claims.

New independent claim 17 includes the subject matter of original claims 1, 2 and 5, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if placed in such form and if the objections under 35 USC 112 have been attended to. All of the objections to 35 USC 112 have been attended to. Thus it is submitted that new claim 17 is in condition for allowance and action to that affect is respectfully requested.

New independent claim 18 includes nearly all of the subject matter of claims 1, 2 and 8 with the exception that a pair of lubricant spray nozzles is eliminated since only a single lubricant spray nozzle is discussed and shown in the drawings, although two could be used if desired. Furthermore, any objections under 35 USC 112 have been eliminated in new claim 18 by using the term "pressurized" instead of "high pressure", and by the correct spelling for "spraying". Accordingly, it is believed that claim 18 is in condition for allowance and action to that affect is respectfully requested.

New claim 19 is a slightly modified claim from that of claims 17 and 18 and specifies that the air nozzle and the lubricant spray nozzle are inserted into the central opening of the tire and that the air nozzle is moved toward the innerliner

splice and that it directs streams of pressurized air against the innerliner on both sides of the splice during the step of spraying the lubricant onto the innerliner to create an air barrier to reduce the amount of sprayed lubricant contacting the splice.

It is respectfully submitted that the invention of claim 19 is not shown in either of the cited references, Horvath (3,816,165) and Hollstein (4,986,210), individually, or if combined with the admitted prior art. As set forth in paragraph 13 of page 6 of the Office Action, neither of these two references or the admitted prior art teaches inserting an air nozzle into a central opening of the tire and moving the air nozzle toward an innerliner splice while directing air streams to create an air barrier during the step of spraying the lubricant onto the innerliner. Horvath discloses creating a single air stream which is directed to one side of a splice. The spray nozzle 92 is located at a fixed stationary position externally of a can for creating the air curtain as the can is moved longitudinally along a stubhorn 10 as shown in Fig. 1. Furthermore, the nozzle 33 which directs a liquid stream of a lacquer over a seam in the can is also located externally of the can at a fixed position for applying the liquid stream as the can is moved longitudinally along the stubhorn. Hollstein merely discloses an externally fixed nozzle for directing a pressured air stream against an external surface of a bolt to prevent powder which is being applied by an externally located nozzle, from reaching certain areas of the bolt threads.

Neither of these references suggest in any manner, even if coupled with the admitted prior art, that an air nozzle is moved into the central opening of the tire and toward an innerliner splice for directing streams of pressurized air against the innerliner on both sides of the splice as now set forth in claim 19.

Dependent claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are dependent directly or indirectly from new claim 19 and define other features and limitations not shown or obvious in view of the prior art, and are believed to be entitled to allowance along with independent claim 19 from which they depend.

It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 17, 18 and 19 and dependent claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 patentably define over the cited references

and are in condition for allowance and action to that effect is respectfully requested.

It is furthermore requested that should the Examiner have any objections and/or suggestions to the claims, that he phone the undersigned with the expectation that a solution can be reached to place the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted this 18TH day of MAY, 2006.

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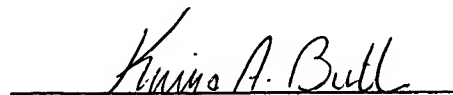
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